

**MANIFESTO**

VOTE **EDGE** ✕ 23 SEPTEMBER 2021 **FOR ONCHAN**



VOTE  
**JULIE EDGE**  
**✕ FOR ONCHAN**

**YOUR VOICE YOUR CANDIDATE**

Published by: Julie Edge, 43 Briarfield Avenue, Onchan, IM3 3JH - The Elections (Keys and Local Authorities) Act 2020.

Dear Constituent

I hope you found my newsletter informative, outlining some of the work I have achieved in the last five years, in line with my Manifesto promises to you in 2016. There is much more to do and I will outline more of my achievements and aims in this manifesto. I hope you will once again, put your trust in me as your voice in Tynwald and the House of Keys at the forthcoming Election.


I have highlighted some of the policy changes I have made, showing that I am the candidate that can achieve through tenacity, hard work and determination. I said it was my duty to you in 2016 to pay attention on important issues that matter, and I hope that through the difficult times prior to and during Covid you have seen that I will stand up for what is right for the people of Onchan and the Isle of Man.

I was new to Politics but not the Government system and as promised, was able to hit the ground running with the knowledge and experience I had gained through my previous career in Government departments and leadership roles where I witnessed

the bloated Government system and structure. However there was a lot I had to learn, about the Political system, about how to drive through that change and break down barriers, through research, questioning and working with other Members to gain their support for Motions that I have successfully brought to the floor of Tynwald achieving effective change, that has been implemented.

In 2021 we need progressive forward thinking MHKs, with that experience, to deliver for the Island and its people and I have proven I am not afraid to challenge the Council of Ministers on their policies or decisions. Those of you that follow the House of Keys and Tynwald sittings, will be aware of the commitment I have shown consistently since being elected in 2016 - and all evidenced in Hansard.

### Parliament Work 2016-2021

 JULIE EDGE	PARLIAMENT WORK TO DATE ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENTS
625	Questions
32	Motions
4	Statements
5	Amendments to Motions or Legislation

**I have never forgotten that you the people of Onchan and taxpayers are my employers.** I have been instrumental in policy change in many areas and I have continually scrutinised a COMIN system that seems, at times, to have forgotten they are there to work in the best interests for all people of the Island.

We must have a Government that is open and transparent, with MHK's leading by example and listening to the VOICE of the people to enable vision and direction for our Island, with progressive reform.

I have pursued greater transparency and better Governance, there is more to do on this and other strategic changes that need to be implemented.

If you put your trust in me again on 23rd September 2021 I will continue to broaden and strengthen the work I started in this area, Conflicts of Interest, Rights for Whistleblowers, and publication of decisions with verbatim records. For example, the conclusion of a comprehensive report, finding that two Ministers had failed to declare a conflict of interest in a planning decision, was not published for 3 years.

# MINISTERS 'DID NOT DECLARE AN INTEREST'

Investigation kept secret for three years

By ANNE THOMPSON

It emerged last week that Ministers failed to declare an interest in a planning application that was not made public for three years.

Angela Main-Thompson OBE revealed former Minister John Skimmin and current Minister Lawrence

Howe made both deny knowingly failing to declare an interest.

The investigation by Angela Main-Thompson, who is now Tynwald correspondent, was commissioned by then Chief Minister Allan Bell in July 2018.

It followed a complaint made by former planning committee member Heath Kelly. The release of the story

was first revealed by the government.

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These investigations are a matter of important public interest and findings should be publicised in full and in a timely manner.

Budgetary controls needs to be a key focus for the next Administration, with full scrutiny of all business cases, we cannot continue to have Government failures in so many areas, policy has to be adhered to with full accountability. This is the cornerstone for good governance to prevent Government from hiding behind 'lessons will be learnt' and 'hindsight's a wonderful thing' the mantra that was fast becoming the favoured narrative of this Government.

**We will not progress beyond those repeated failings and overspends without real action to address this.**

My motion in July 2021 was to implement performance related pay for Chief Executive Officer's, this was blocked by Ministers and some MHKs who voted against continuing with the sitting, even though a maximum of 30 minutes would have most likely finalised the item and a vote taken.

This would have been a major step forward, leading to accountability and the opportunity for action to be taken where failures are identified.

**If re-elected I will pursue the deferred motion and continue for accountability of CEO's who are the accounting officers responsible for the public purse in their departments.**

MHK's often get criticised for submitting questions to Tynwald. I have been criticised for raising questions at times by fellow MHKs. This is a vital component of our democracy, of openness and transparency and holding Ministers to account. All questions I have raised have a purpose, an end goal, whether that is for policy change

or as a formal record of responses and I will continue to ask questions should I be re-elected.

Thank you for the support you have shown me and your appreciation for raising difficult questions and changing policy. It is heartening to see it has not gone unnoticed. Throughout this Manifesto I will detail some of the positive policy changes I have made whilst representing you and things that I hope to achieve if re-elected.

I am proud to have represented you for the last five years, as the MHK that lives in our community and has done since a child, having seen Onchan develop, into the community we call home.

A vote for me is a vote for a strong voice with leadership and backbone for Onchan and the Island and I am not afraid to take on tough challenges and scrutinise Government to deliver and ensure effective change for the people of the Island.

Julie Edge  
MHK Candidate for Onchan,  
23 September 2021

## ONCHAN

### Constituent concerns - What could we improve in our Community?

I will continue to work for improvements throughout Onchan for our community and the people who live in it. I hope that you feel that I have represented your views on all matters since being elected in 2016 and I have attended, most of Onchan District Commissioners meetings, to keep in touch with current local issues and planning applications.

One of the main concerns on the doorstep has been the **Borders Exit Strategy** - Residents have thanked me for my approach and have concerns, that the strategy did not follow the strategy originally presented by COMIN. I was happy for the Borders to open, I stressed that children should be exempt from tests and that families have been separated far too long. However I was of the view that a number of low level measures should have remained in place. With these simple mitigations, we may not have seen such widespread infection, tragic human cost and the long term impact on those suffering long covid, therefore I voted against the current strategy. There has also been a significant impact on businesses, the full impact of which we may not see immediately.

**Onchan Park** - Onchan Park is one of our biggest assets, not just for Onchan residents but the whole Island as a whole for locals and visitors alike. It is a safe space for children and families and it holds fond memories for many, including myself, of happy days spent there as a child.

The Creation of this facility was an amazing vision by the Chairman Mr Jack Nivison JP MHK and the Board of the Commissioners at the time.

I will push with the new Government for a **'Future Vision'** strategy to be produced to introduce upgraded facilities throughout Onchan. With the Island Games, due to be hosted on the Island in 2027, now delayed until 2029, this would be



a fantastic opportunity for development within Onchan and surrounding areas.

I have held talks with Cycling IOM and a safe track environment would be welcomed on the Island. **This does not mean removing any current activities or disenfranchising current users** but improving and maximising all year round multi-purpose use within the Park and Stadium.

Our young people have expressed the need for indoor recreational and leisure facilities and this could be an opportunity to achieve that; combining it with the preparation of the sporting facilities required for the Island Games, which would benefit all.

If re-elected I will work to get Onchan back on the map, by continually pushing to see existing amenities, improved or new facilities created, as part of the vision for the Island Games 2029, working with Government and sponsors to achieve that vision.

**Allotments** - In 2016 a number of residents showed an interest in having Allotments in Onchan. Working with DOI/DFE I identified a site that could be utilised. The DOI Minister approved the proposal, however DFE and Covid have stalled progression of this, but I will see that this is progressed, if re-elected.

**Bus Routes and Manx Arms Bus Shelter** - I worked with DOI to ensure the bus shelter was placed back in position, after the completion of development in the area. I will be pushing for this to be upgraded so that residents are sheltered from

inclement weather. A number of constituents have raised the issue of poor bus routes from Onchan, particularly when accessing Nobles Hospital. I will continue to push for improved bus routes from Onchan to essential services on the Island.

**Roads and Pavements in and around Onchan** - The last review of the road network and safety issues was in 2017, after a series of public meetings which I arranged. This needs regular review as road users habits change, along with traffic volumes. For example I would explore the possibility of changes to traffic management to encourage traffic travelling to and from the North, which normally comes through Onchan, to use King Edward Road.

The traffic lights at Manx Arms junction are a significant issue and, long overdue for an upgrade. This was discussed during the, 2017 improvements but we need a full traffic management system with intelligent signal controls to optimise traffic flow, which may relieve the rush hour queues and look at speed monitoring options. This is a very important issue for the residents of Onchan and improvement to these junctions could see significant reduction in congestion and also pressure on smaller, residential roads around the village. I will also be pushing for the junction at the bottom of Royal Avenue to be improved by considering a number of options, including the benefits of a roundabout at this junction.

**Parking and Access for Wheelchair and Mobility Scooters** A review of parking within Onchan needs to take place. This would need to include an assessment of disabled parking

spaces throughout the village ensuring access to the village shops and central facilities. Currently there is not ONE disabled park in the two large parking bays on Main Road outside Elm Tree House and this is something that must be addressed.

### Development - Eastern Area Plan - I voted against it

I voted against the plan mainly due to the major development proposed at the top of Birch Hill and the lack of adequate infrastructure and modern primary school facilities in Onchan to support such a development.

I do feel a new school is long overdue in Onchan and I have been pushing to get a proposal on the table, however the site needs to be carefully selected to ensure the best infrastructure, facilities and accessibility is obtained.

**Drainage** - Onchan still has a number of issues with regard to drainage. Due to combined foul and rainwater drains, which were standard practice around the time of construction of the Ballachurry and Birch Hill estates. However this system is no longer suitable or acceptable for major new construction projects. I feel a full drainage infrastructure survey would need to be undertaken prior to any further consideration of any major development.

**Trees** - I believe a sensible maintenance plan has been lacking in some areas of Onchan with regard to trees and I would like to see this introduced.

**Government House Trees** - I have raised concerns about the felling of 30 trees on land at Government House that backs onto Wybourn Drive. The license application by DOI states that the trees should be removed following a number of complaints from residents. I have requested copies of the application document and received this, there is **no specific reason for the request on the form**. I will continue to seek answers as to what process was followed, however work to start felling these trees is due to take place on the **20th September 2021** so time is of the essence.

In the future I would aim to **change policy** so that tree-felling applications are subject to a public notice, similar to planning applications. Public opinion should be sought and approvals published and the granting of interested party status to the Manx Wildlife Trust, Bat Society and Manx Birdlife organisations. In addition there should be easy public access to all applications and approval notices for greater transparency. This would help to prevent issues such as this and the recent public and national outcry over the Elm Tunnel at St Marks.

**Onchan Housing** - I would like to see a new scheme of sheltered housing, providing residents with easy access to village amenities and bus services.

I feel if we had further developments in apartments, it would release much needed housing for families to help reduce housing waiting lists.



## **Public Meetings with Police, Commissioners, Education and MHKs - Anti-social Behaviour**

I arranged two Public meetings due to concerns raised by residents regarding the increase in anti-social behaviour in Onchan. I have been in regular contact with the Police over issues identified in our area. I feel these meetings were extremely beneficial, and resulted in increased police presence and monitoring of problem areas, as well as gauging public opinion. I am pleased to see we now have a base for the Police in Onchan, implemented after two years of negotiations.

The Police have also expanded the community meetings with other regional meetings around the Island and they are proving successful. I will see that community meetings continue and that Onchan sees the benefits on increased policing in the future.



**Kenyon's** - was the place where a lot of youngsters in Onchan used to go to socialise and was very successful in supporting the youth of Onchan. I feel the new facility up at The Hub needs to be re-visited and a solution found for a larger facilities and improved facilities and initiatives introduced to encourage community-led projects for our younger residents.

**Onchan Constituency Boundary Review** - There is still some concern from Onchan ratepayers that they cannot vote for an Onchan candidate due to the boundary changes that took place. A review can take place after the 2021 election and this does need to be addressed on behalf of the Onchan ratepayer.

**Laxey Sewerage Works** - You may think why is a prospective Onchan MHK looking at this scheme? I have been keeping on top of developments and speaking to the design engineers, as future plans could impact Onchan depending on the site selected for sewerage treatment. There could be potential long-term impact on Onchan, with the possibility of sewerage vehicles transiting through the Village to the plant at Meary Veg. I will continue to monitor progression of this scheme if re-elected.

## EDUCATION

### The key to our future success

The past eighteen months have been extremely difficult for students, teachers and parents and we need to ensure we have a series of strategies in place to support all students to achieve their full potential following so much disruption.

I believe my 20 years' experience in Education served me well to stop the Education Bill progressing with what was an inferior piece of Legislation.

We do need a new Education Bill and this needs to be brought forward in the next Administration ensuring stakeholder engagement and all views listened too.

Home educators need to have a fair structure within the Bill if choosing to educate their own children.

If successful in re-election I will continue to engage with all employees to ensure we have the best available Curriculum and facilities for all our students and staff. We need a future vision of education which focuses on outcomes for all learners and which includes flexible learning platforms to ensure the best possible employment prospects for the next generations.

#### Recruitment and Retention of Teachers

We need to ensure that Education is fully resourced and look at the terms and conditions of employees to ensure we have appropriate remuneration to encourage and retain teachers and support staff. Flexible terms that attract employees and help deliver an excellent education system.

**I would ensure implementation of the Beamans Independent review that took place into Education, which eventually resulted in a damning report. If re-elected I will work to make sure the recommendations of the report are implemented in the best interests of high quality and relevant Education on the Isle of Man.**

Online learning became the only option for students during lockdowns and it was clear that there was not a consistent approach across the Island or adequate technology in place for online learning opportunities. I will be seeking a Virtual Strategy from the Department of Education, Sport and Culture be brought forward which would allow better access to remote learning where this is required and a more inclusive and accessible learning environment on the Isle of Man.

Universities in the UK are mostly landlocked and are now exploring the use of satellite operations in other areas. Something the Isle of Man could really benefit from in terms of attracting students and potentially new industries to the Island. We need to continue with Student grant schemes.

The Additional Needs Review currently taking place needs to be considered carefully and any new coding system should not distract from delivering the right services to the student for their best individual needs and outcomes. I will monitor this to ensure that services are relevant and beneficial.



## HEALTH

### Without healthy people you don't have an economy

We need an excellent Health care model for the Island with access to specialist expertise in the UK utilised at the earliest opportunities for the best outcomes for the patient. Pathways need to be published so patients can see what options are available to them.

Early intervention and strong policy that is adhered to, particularly the two week referral for a suspected cancer for their first appointment which I have pushed very hard for and will continue to do so.

We need to ensure we maintain our excellent screening programmes and extend these where if necessary, for example diabetes and also look to fund the full health screening schemes that are offered every ten years in other jurisdictions.

I want to see this as a primary care function, based on policy which is developed with the opinions of professionals at its heart. Funding for this service may well be assisted through early intervention and treatment that they may prevent overwhelming the health service and saving on more costly treatment later down the line

We must attract Health professionals to the Island and ensure that the organisation does everything in its power to retain them, from consultants down to all individual careers providing care on the Island. We need to ensure excellent

employment terms and conditions for all employees in health, care and childcare settings.

Whistleblowers and professionals who speak out have been key to highlighting issues in our Health Service and during the Covid pandemic, and we must listen to them and protect them. Recent examples include Dr Ranson and Dr Glover, both highly skilled professionals in their respective fields.

**I was a member of the Public Accounts Committee and heard all of the shocking evidence, which will be crucial to reforming and ensuring accountability in the future - the knowledge and experience I have in this regard will be invaluable in the next Administration.**

Change needs to happen and we all need strong political leadership that both supports and holds Manx Care to account as well as the Department of Health and Social Care to ensure that they deliver policies with a Regulatory framework, which provides accountability for our people as well as maintaining high standards of service.

**Nursing Care** - This is an area of great concern to many and the charges families face alongside the devastating impact of losing homes to fund for care. This should have been addressed in the last five years. We could have easily increased the level of income/assets that people can retain before losing their homes. I was a member of the Social Policy

Committee that was exploring scenarios around increased allowances above the current thirteen thousand pounds level which strips home owners of all their assets. **I will push for an increase in the allowance level to reduce the burden on those who need to rely on the services of care homes.**

We need to look at regulating care homes on the Island and the fees which they charge depending on the services provided and ensure all are complying with employment laws and relevant Regulations through regular inspections.

**GP Services** - GP services and their contracts need to be updated and an increase in the level of funding and services delivered direct from our doctors in the surgeries. Our Government needs to work collaboratively with GPs and must ensure we can fund the services and also attract new GPs to the Island.

**Children and Families Social Services** - If re-elected I would seek a motion in Tynwald for the introduction of a policy which would see all **Social Workers wearing body cameras** as an urgent matter due to the number of concerns raised by many families throughout the Island. Body cameras have proved very successful when in use by the Police and we need transparency and accurate reporting of all meetings and verbatim records to support our families involved with these services.

**Mental Health** - As Chair of Social Affairs Policy Review Committee, looking into Mental Health and Suicide rates on the Island, the recommendations in the two Committee reports must be implemented and if re-elected I will continue to ensure **early intervention strategies** are introduced to ensure better outcomes and recovery for individuals, with **additional funding as a priority.**

I also believe we need to look at employing mental health nurses within GP practices to help support patients earlier rather than adding patients to a waiting lists, which fails the individual at their time of greatest need.

**Dementia** - I will be pushing for improvements in dementia care in the Isle of Man alongside more comprehensive help and support for the patients families. The number of people living with dementia is increasing and is projected to continue increasing. We must ensure the infrastructure and much needed help is in place now to support those families and patients.

**Capacity Legislation** - **I raised the point about Capacity Legislation very early on in my term,** it is disappointing that Legislation is still not in place. I will continue to push the prioritisation of Capacity Legislation on the Legislative programme if re-elected.

## ECONOMY

### Understand the threats and look at opportunity

Our Zero10 taxation policy, the implications of the global minimum corporate tax rate as well as the **Economic Strategy Review** being undertaken by KPMG will be key issues for the next administration once the report is published. I hope this will be a forward thinking progressive vision, creating change but ensuring that the needs of the people of the Island are the priority.

We need to ensure we have a **budgeted programme for Government** that is delivering efficient services for our people whilst creating economic growth and jobs. Any funding options going forward will need to have sustainable goals to ensure we are a **digital, green and secure Island**.

We need to look to expanding our BioMed economy and also focus on attracting new emerging industries and improve access to green markets, car battery recycling, hydrogen and minerals etc.

#### **Capital Spend - I would pause capital spend projects**

Capital spend commitment should be **revisited** to ensure the focus is on delivering schemes with greatest impact to the public, most notably health, education and essential infrastructure and services. We need to switch focus **back to the basics required for a good quality of life on the Island**.

Maintenance is as essential as capital schemes, and we should be introducing schemes and policies aimed at encouraging the maintenance and retention of the current building stock and considering refurbishment rather than creating new, high cost capital schemes.

#### **Government Reform - Size and Structure**

We need **strong Politicians** with experience and desire in driving needed change and proof of delivering efficiencies and creating effective savings which will reduce the burden of **420 million** on the taxpayer on employee costs per year nearly 50% of our national income. I will continue to push for efficiencies to be realised across Government.

#### **My question No. 54 in July 2021 Tynwald revealed a cost to date this year of over 4.2 million in overtime costs**

My Committee work, which includes scrutinising and challenging the various Government departments and Ministers has highlighted serious shortcomings of some who clearly have very little understanding and knowledge of the functions of the departments of which they are responsible for, **leading to repeated failings, lack of sound project and poor financial governance and management**.

**My Question No. 55 in July 2021 Tynwald** revealed the number of personnel in Government has increased by **350 in the Quayle Administration** and my Motion in June Tynwald on **the impact of the removal of the Personnel Control Cap** replacing it with a budgetary control has been reported in the Examiner recently. The newspaper headline says it all and my experience can help address this effectively and drive change.

## Number of public sector workers is up by 350 since start of Quayle administration

by Adrian Darbyshire

The government's wage bill has spiralled over the past five years – possibly by as much as £45m.

Figures have been released in a delayed written response to a question from last month's Tynwald sitting.

They show that the salary bill for government departments increased from £240,980,109 in 2016-17 to £272,855,202 in the 12 months up to August 2020.

The current year's figure is £261,727,250 – but this is just for the 11 months between September 2020 and July this year.

This would suggest that the wage bill for the full 12 months would be about £286m, a rise of £45m in five years.

The number of staff employed by government departments has also risen by more than 350, from 7,220 in 2016-17 to 7,878 this year.

These figures, which include Manx Care but not the statutory boards, fly in the face of pledges by successive administrations for 'smaller, smarter' government.

There are supposed to be strict budgetary controls on overall staff costs.

This approach replaced the headcount cap or personnel control mechanism (PCM) which had been in place since 1991 but was suspended by the previous Council of Ministers in 2015.

The impact of suspending the PCM was debated at the June Tynwald with members supporting a motion by Julie Edge calling for

# CUTS? WHAT CUTS?

## Tax National Insurance and Enforcement

We need a fair and simple taxation system that is fair for all. The recent report into the National Insurance fund was disappointing and failed to include the ongoing concerns of care home costs. I believe anyone who is working should be contributing fairly to the fund and we need to look closely at NI avoidance schemes.

We need to be carrying out better enforcement on tax and NI and I will push for further investment in this area to ensure all revenues for the IOM are collected. The Construction contractors scheme works well however double taxation still remains an area of concern for me. Contractors for the UK **should not** be allowed to work on the Island without a Manx "C" Certificate. Where they don't have one, companies and Government should be taxing them at source. **I will be looking to change to a taxation at source policy** for all Government invoice payments involving UK companies.

**Pensions** - Government have made some changes but didn't go far enough and the changes don't seem to promote tangible savings to ensure the liability doesn't increase - further more decisive changes are required.

**Local Authorities Pension** are costing all ratepayers on the Island 28% of their rates and this is in need of urgent review with consideration of updated employee contributions.

# CLIMATE

## The affordable future

We are all more aware of the serious threats to our climate than we were five years ago, when I was elected your representative.

I was one of only seven members in Tynwald who voted in favour of a target of 2035 in the Climate Change Debate, opposing Governments 2050 target. This was disappointing and showed lack of commitment for tangible change by COMIN and the backbench MHK's that supported them.

I feel the introduction of green living grant schemes should be delivered direct to individual people e.g. insulation grants, installation of charging points, electric bike/vehicle subsidies working with vehicle manufacturers to offer schemes to the Isle of Man.

The Island is currently exploring new energy sources for the future - we have options of wind, tidal, hydrogen, green gas and cable. I would seek a feasibility study into an additional undersea cable to the Island in the immediate short term, whilst we understand the developments with hydrogen and whether its blue or green hydrogen that comes forward as the preferred fuel.

The burners on our existing gas and diesel generation at Pulrose/Peel may well be able to be converted to hydrogen burners in the future, this is something I would like exploring. We may well become an Island nation that develops a combination of sustainable options, we are currently not reaching our maximum demand of current electricity supply

### Current Energy Supply

Energy supply is the largest emissions category for the Isle of Man and accounts for 33% of total emissions.

Currently around 84% of the Island's electricity generated by the Manx Utilities is from imported fossil fuels. Natural gas is imported via a spur in the gas interconnector connecting Scotland and Ireland and diesel is imported at Peel and Douglas. It should be noted that whilst the diesel generators now rarely run they provide emergency back-up capability. The interconnector cable is typically used to import around 9% of our electricity from the UK. Excluding imported fossil fuel-powered generation, our only on-Island energy generation comes from the Hydro Plant in the Sulby Glen and the Energy from Waste Plant.

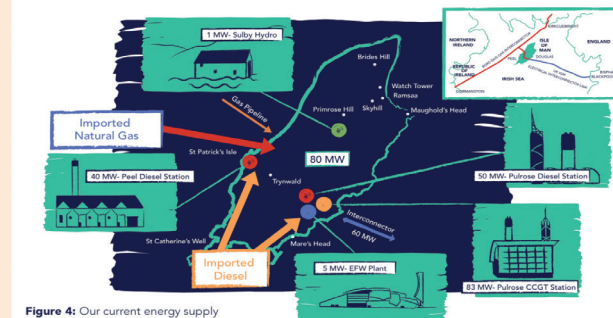


Figure 4: Our current energy supply

available but we must plan now for the future and the climate targets as well as taking reasonable steps immediately to address climate change.

Individuals and households can do so much to help with reduction in our carbon footprint but the IOM and the UK are not the biggest contributors and it needs International agreements to drive the change for the nations of China, USA and Russia. However, it is our Governments responsibility to encourage and support a move to sustainable options for both their own projects as well as those of our residents.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Essential infrastructure for a successful Nation with a UNESCO Biosphere

We need to ensure the National Infrastructure strategy is considered in all business cases for maintenance and capital schemes. As I have stated previously, I would pause all Capital spend until we have the right vision for the Island and investment where it most matters.

We have major issues with roads, pavements, drainage and sewerage and we need to get 'Back to Basics' with programmes

of work delivered in communities whilst developing the future vision and replacement programme.

Flood defence has been an issue for the Island and we need to look at effective maintenance solutions to avoid catastrophic events as well as defences to address the impact of rising sea levels.

## ISLAND OF CONNECTIVITY

The next Government needs to be forward thinking, **I am surprised we do not have an overarching Transport Strategy** to ensure we have connectivity and accessibility for all, a transport vision that includes buses, trams, trains and our ports and airport.

Would it be more beneficial for climate change targets for a transport system using buses and trams with commute style carriages for the journey to work?

We need to retain and protect our heritage railways it is what makes the Island unique and what visitors want to see.

Could we have an airport that connects direct into European hubs, I believe so following discussions around the future of our airport - this could support business and younger generations being connected to cities like Paris or Amsterdam within hours. We definitely need to have a vision.

The launch of the Manxman and the ownership of the Steam Packet should be seen as the flagship for encouraging more people to visit the Island. The Government should be marketing the Island and attracting people with cheaper fares out of season - possibly a good trigger for keyworkers to make that move to our Island. Marketing needs to be carried out by professional team and outsourced in my opinion.

Connectivity also means with people we need to do better and look for different ways to consult with the public. **I would call public meetings with all Departments throughout my term if successful in re-election where officers have to be accountable to the public.**

We need to maximise opportunity with our undersea cable, fibre and satellite opportunities and the recently announced Starlink - that's connectivity with vision to put the Island back on the map.



## SOCIAL CONCERNS

### Quality of life for all

We have many social issues on the Island and past Governments policy has contributed to it making people's lives very difficult. I raised the issue around pensioner poverty, which was picked up by a committee and reported on. I will be pushing to ensure that our pensioners who rely **solely** on a **state pension receive the living wage income, equivalent as a pension.**

I fully support a fair benefit system for all. One area I have become increasingly concerned about is shared care when families separate. Any benefit funding should be split accordingly on the time the children spend with each parent and should be determined by the Courts in any relevant Order.

Social services needs a full, independent review. I am aware of many failings of social services and their systems in my five years which has caused lasting damage to many people and families.

Home Carers need to be treated more favourably and provided with a living wage to care for their relatives. This is care being subsidised by families which must change, especially in context of care homes receiving over £900 - care by family is far superior to care facilities away from the home.

We need to ensure that employees within the care settings, whether this is health care, nursing care or child care, have fair employment terms and conditions and in particular pay



in line with the living wage and appropriate sickness and holiday entitlements.

**Drugs and Reform** - I believe we need to look at regulating cannabis on the Island for personal use as this would help remove the criminal black market economy that currently exists.

The Chief Constable has highlighted concerns around drugs and “county lines” being present on the Island and vulnerable individuals being used to accept drugs on behalf of these criminals. Drug and financial crime is a major concern and funding needs to be maintained to keep the Island secure from criminal activity.

## HOUSING

**Affordable housing is a main concern and we need to look at ways of addressing this for those wishing to own a property of their own.**

This needs to have residential qualification criteria for first time buyers/affordable homes with possible solutions like:

- Do we make property purchases only for residents?
- Assisted Deposits to help first time buyers onto the property ladder?
- Ensure first time buyer properties are available at affordable prices
- Rent to Buy Schemes?
- Shared Equity schemes?
- Mid Rent Schemes I have already introduced this needs expanding to all areas of the Island.

Government should invest in Brownfield sites for a mixed tenure of affordable homes as well as for use by keyworkers.

An urgent policy debate and funding mechanism needs to take place early in the next Administration with tangible target dates for implementation.

### Jurby Village - Development Initiative

I was responsible for working and delivering a design concept with officers for land available at Jurby for the development of affordable, sustainable housing and serviced plots, along with additional Community facilities. This has reached full design stage and has been submitted to the Planning Department. Visual images are of possible housing designs of factory built sustainable homes which can be constructed and available within shorter timescales than traditional builds. I hope that this scheme is developed to provide affordable housing under 150k and if re-elected I would continue to look into schemes of this nature.



Factory built "Small Homes" constructed and erected by "The Wee House Company", Scotland

## POLICING

### Communities, Safe Places and Borders

Our Police force needs to be funded appropriately to ensure we have a safe secure Island for all to enjoy.

**Borders** - Covid and closed borders provided the Police with the opportunity to focus on law enforcement at our Ports.

The presence at Ports was long overdue and continuation of a Border Force needs appropriate funding to ensure our Islands security at the Ports.

## REGULATION/INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

### More Independent inspections and enforcement using existing Laws and resources

This applies across all Government activities, statutory boards and Local Authorities. Without Regulation enforcement we will suffer failures experienced throughout successive Governments. Planning is inconsistent with enforcement and retrospective planning.

Inspection of all regulated industries needs to take place consistently and accountability and actions taken if regulatory breaches occur. These need reporting to professional bodies as required for professional indemnities.

#### **Recent examples of lack of compliance and due process**

- Reports into meat plant, Laxey flooding, dairy industry, Douglas Promenade.

## ANIMAL WELFARE BILL

The next Administration needs to ensure the Bill comes forward with new laws to give domestic pets strengthened protection from mistreatment on the Isle of Man. It needs to relate to the Island and also protect Mountain hares not a U.K. Bill repurposed on the Isle of Man.

## REFORM

### **Review of Council of Ministers, is the system is working for the Island?**

Since the introduction of the Ministerial Government system I believe the quality of life on the Island has declined. We need to look at what works and I am hopeful that the new Administration will seize the opportunity for an achievable costed Programme for Government and Legislative business plan.

The block vote of CoMin and Departments needs to be addressed and whilst we need collective responsibility it would be a much better system if the programme for Government was the collective element for the Council of Ministers and free votes on other matters and members motions in line with their manifesto to ensure a true democracy. The public deserve transparency and this would lead to greater accountability for all members.

Local Authority Reform is long overdue and needs debating early in the next administration with the larger authorities supporting the smaller ones with centralised functions and collections of rates etc.

Members of Legislative Council should stand down if seeking election in the House of Keys and this needs reviewing and reformed in the next administration.



## COMMITTEE WORK

### Committee Work delivered 2016-2021

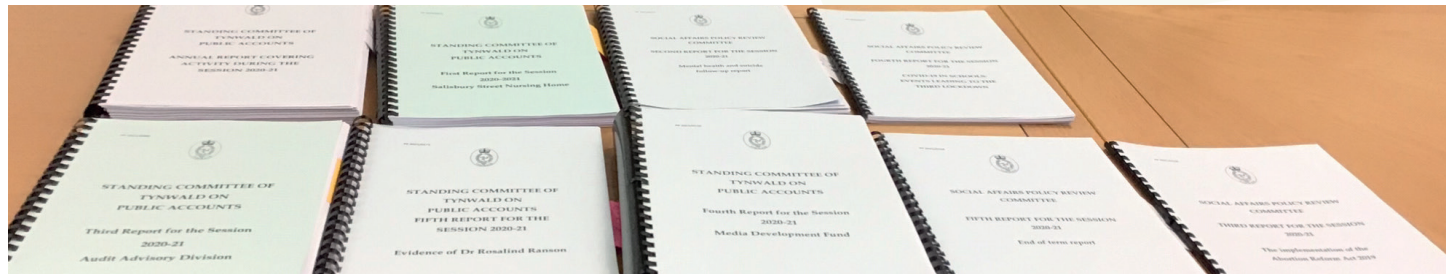
Chair of Social Affairs Policy Review Committee 2018- 2021

### Reports Delivered

- Mental Health and Suicide
- Grandparents Rights
- Education Bill
- Knottfield Enquiry
- Nursery Place Provision
- Endoscopy Services
- Capability Assessments
- Family Services
- Social Care Procurement
- Education Covid Response

### Committee Memberships and Reports delivered

- Public Accounts Committee 2020-2021 - Steam Packet, Genomics and Chief Medical Director key pieces of work
- Emoluments Committee - Tynwald members pay
- House of Keys Management and Members Standards Committee 2016-2021
- Select Committee on Free Train and Tram Travel (Petition of Redress Tynwald) 2016-2017
- Select Committee of Tynwald on Financing of Infrastructure Schemes and Projects 2018
- Select Committee on the Code of Conduct of Public Servants (Petition of Redress Tynwald) 2019-20
- Chairman of Select Committee on Whistleblowing – 2018-2021





## ISLE OF MAN POST OFFICE

As Chair of the Isle of Man Post Office I have taken on the challenge of the role many stated was a 'poisoned chalice'. I have worked hard to achieve success as I have in all roles since being elected. When I stepped in, the business was in need of change and new direction. The structure in all areas needed review as it was operating at loss.

The pension scheme required changes to ensure future sustainability for existing members. **Public Pension schemes were a major topic in the 2016 election and I am pleased to say I am one of the few members who have delivered on my promise to address this issue.** In order to retain the defined benefit scheme for existing members, contributions were increased and a new sustainable scheme introduced for new employees following negotiations. In addition a full structural review was undertaken and staffing at management level reduced.

There have been many challenges along the way, I am pleased to say that after many questions, debates, reports in Tynwald,

along with the challenge of strike action the business is now back on track.

**I am pleased to say that the business has now returned to profit in the latest accounts 2019/20.** This has been a major achievement and took tenacity and resilience which could not have been achieved without the hard work of the Board, officers, Unions and employees working collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes for the business and sustainability for the future.

I believe I leave IOM Post on a sound footing for the future and thank our dedicated officers and postal workers who have carried on throughout the pandemic to deliver a first class service for our customers.

Isle of Man  
Post Office  
Oik Postagh Ellan Vannin





## CONCLUSION AND PROGRESSION

### Future Progression

I hope you can see from this Manifesto that I have met my obligations to you and been a strong voice for Onchan constituents and stood up in the best interests of the Island. I have fulfilled my role as an MHK with passion and determination, not just on constituency matters but on national issues that have a lasting impact on us all.

My questions and research has enabled me to effectively change policy and highlighted the uncontrolled bloat of Government, the increasing size of departments at management level, away from front-line services.

Scrutiny and Select Committees and Public Enquires are essential to ensure adherence to good governance principals and an effective Government that we all deserve as taxpayers.

The experience I have gained through this work has identified numerous problem areas that need to be addressed.

That work, in addition to my questions in Tynwald, have exposed many problems, lack of project planning and control and ill-thought changes of policy that at times have not been fit for purpose and we have seen many u-turns.

As stated, if re-elected, as a priority I will continue my Motion to make Chief Executive Officers and Senior Mangers

accountable with performance reviews a fundamental part of that.

I will endeavour to pause capital schemes to enable a review and ensure they are essential and fit for purpose.

Without this accountability we will continue on the same road, with failed projects and inferior standards which have lasting effects for us all.

I urge you to think carefully where you place your X on Thursday 23 September 2021 and hope you will continue to support me to be your voice dealing with the real issues in the public interest, which effect your life, everyday.

**EDGE** 

MANIFESTO

VOTE **EDGE**  23 SEPTEMBER 2021 **FOR ONCHAN**



**VOTE** FOR PUBLIC  
INTEREST  
NOT SELF  
INTEREST

JULIE  

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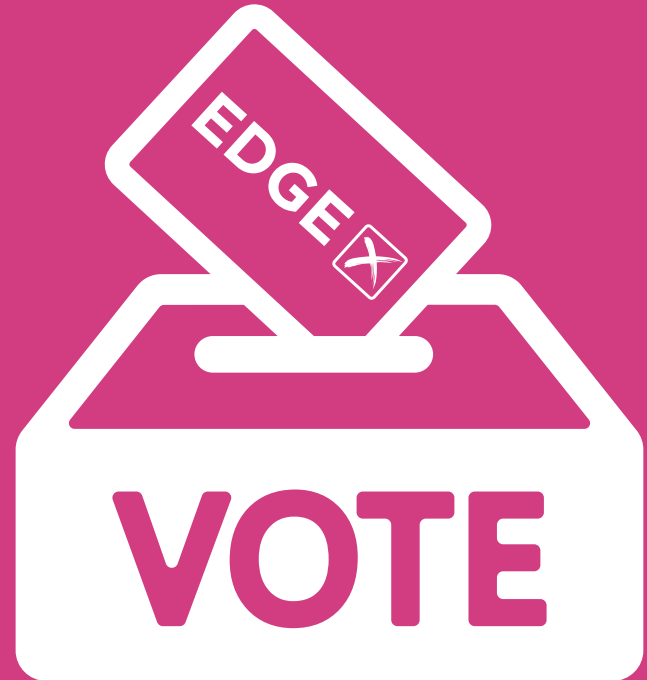
EDGE  
FOR ONCHAN



VOTE **EDGE**  **YOUR VOICE** IN THE HOUSE OF KEYS AND TYNWALD

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Budget control
  - No overspend

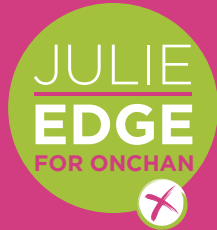
Your **Voice** in Onchan  
- A **Voice** for all



**PLEASE CHECK YOUR BALLOT CARD FOR YOUR POLLING STATION**

<b>Polling Station 1</b>	The Manx Blind Welfare Centre, Corrin Court, Heywood Avenue, Onchan	CONC1
<b>Polling Station 2</b>	The Onchan Hub, School Road, Onchan	CONC2
<b>Polling Station 3</b>	The Onchan Hub, School Road, Onchan	CONC3
<b>Polling Station 4</b>	The Velo Café, Onchan Park	CONC4

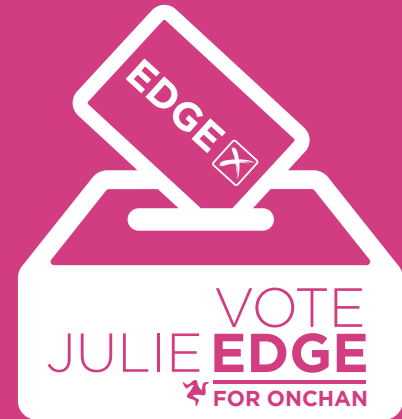
Your **Voice** in Onchan - A **Voice** for all



 @Julie Edge  @VOTEJulieEdge

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME

43 BRIARFIELD AVENUE, ONCHAN



If you require transport to polling station contact me:  
Tel: 677536/473598 • Email: [jmedge62@gmail.com](mailto:jmedge62@gmail.com)